Effects of LAB detergent on environment and ecology

962. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious controversy reging over harm ful effects and dangers from use of LAB detergents as reported in the E.T. 24-1-1992, E.T. 3-1-1992, F.E. 8-1-1989, F.E. 6-9-1989 and if so the steps taken so far to settle this issue; and

(b) whether Government are also aware of the report of Deptt. of Science and Technology's consumer protection panel on the subject and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon to protect public irterest as reported in a letter by Shri B. P. Godrej in the E.T. of 31-1-1992?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Government are aware of the different views expressed in the newspaper reports relating to the criteria for labelling detergents as environment freindly products as proposed and notified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on November 29; 1991 inviting objections against these criteria. The objections received are under consideration.

(b) Government are aware of the study made by the Department of Science & Technology oil detergents. It is a test-report of various constituents used in the manufacture of detergents including various active ingredienlts. However, concentration of LAB is not separately analysed in the study. Government have no information on the largescale contamination of well-water with LAB though may be some cases of minor contamination. The issues raised by Shri B. P. Godrej in his letter to the Economic Times of 31-1-1992 and also in an earlier letter to the Government are among those under consideration. The scheme on Labelling of Environment Friendly Products notified by the Government seeks. *inter-alia,* to ultimately improve the quality of the environment and to encourage the sustainable management of resources and thus to protect public interest.

Pataiganga industrial zone

963. *DR.* BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the approval for the massive expansion of a number of factories besides setting up a Naptha pipeline plant by the Government of Maharashtra in Pataiganga industrial zone in reversal of its decision in violation of the pollution norms; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH); (a) and (b) According to State Government, approval for industrial units and naptha pipeline has been given after examination of environmental aspects and without violating the pollution norms. The State Government has also set up a Committee to ensure necessary environmental safeguards in the area.

समुद्रतट इत्यादि पर प्रदूषण रोकने के लिए "वोहरा समिति"

964. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने समुद्री-तटों तथा अन्य जगहों में प्रदूषण रोकने के लिए "वोहरा समिति" गठित की है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस समिति के विचारार्थ विषय क्या हैं और इसके द्वारा अपनी रिपोर्ट कब तक प्रस्तुत किए जाने की संभावना है ; और

(ग) क्या समिति ने गोवा समुद्री तट पर प्रस्तावित जापानी ग्राम (विलेज) के संबंध में कोई रिपोर्ट दी है ?